

25. NEW RECORD OF *SALMOSTOMA SARDINELLA* (PISCES: CYPRINIDAE)
FROM MONDAI STREAM, MAHARASHTRA

(With one text-figure)

While conducting a survey on the freshwater fishes of Maharashtra, five specimens of *Salmostoma sardinella* (Cyprinidae) were collected from Mondai stream in Satara dist., Maharashtra. The species has not been recorded so far from this state.

The Mondai stream originates from Mandhardevi hills and meets the river Neerar. The fish was collected 1 km from Shirrai in Satara dist. It is a moderate flowing stream. Substrate types are small boulder (20%), gravel (20%), cobblestones (34%) and sand (26%).

The typical features of *S. sardinella* are as follows:

Body elongate and compressed. Dorsal profile equally convex as ventral profile, caudal deeply forked. Lateral line scales 54-56. It grows upto 15 cm (Talwar and Jhingran 1991); in the present collection the range is 6.5-8.1 cm. Head length 4.5 to 4.6 times in standard length. Body depth 5.5 to 6 times in standard length. Colour of live fish silvery. After preservation, dorsal part of body pale brown; ventral part of body pale yellow.

Valenciennes (1842) described this species from Rangoon (Burma). Day (1878) recorded it from Irrawadi river at Rangoon. Tilak (1967)

recorded it from Poonpun river, Patna. Talwar and Jhingran (1991) give its distribution as Ganga, Brahmaputra drainage and Orissa. The present record of this fish in Mondai stream extends its distribution to Maharashtra.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We thank Prof. Madhav Gadgil, Centre for Ecological Sciences, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, for financial assistance under Western Ghats Biodiversity Network, Dr. K. Rema Devi, Zoological Survey of India, Southern Regional Station, Chennai for confirming the identification and Dr. P.T. Cherian, Officer-in-Charge ZSI, Southern Regional Station, Chennai for facilities.

August 27, 1998

M. ARUNACHALAM
A. SANKARANARAYANAN
A. MANIMEKALAN
R. SORANAM
J.A. JOHNSON

*Sri Paramakalyani Centre
for Environmental Sciences,
Manonmaniam Sundaranar University,
Alwarkurichi - 627 412, Tamil Nadu.*

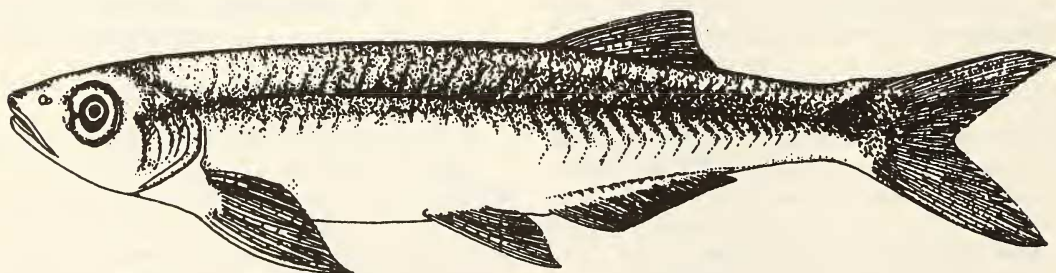


Fig. 1: *Salmostoma sardinella*

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26. EXTENSION OF RANGE OF *ESOMUS THERMOICOS* (PISCES: CYPRINIDAE: RASBORINAE) TO KERALA

Esomus thermoicos Valenciennes 1842 was described from the hot springs at Kanniya, Sri Lanka (type locality). It was thought to be restricted to Sri Lanka until 1992, when it was found in the Kalakad Wildlife Sanctuary, Tirunelveli district, Tamil Nadu, India (Rema Devi 1992). The present record of the species from a freshwater pond adjacent to Mangalampuzha, a tributary of Bharathapuzha, extends its range of distribution to Kerala. The present report is based on three specimens averaging 85 mm SL collected during 1997.

Esomus thermoicos (Val.)

Nuria thermoicos Valenciennes 1842, *Hist. nat. Poiss.*; 16: 238; pl. 472

Esomus thermoicos: Hora & Mukerji 1928, *Rec. Ind. Mus.*; 30(1): 44.

Esomus danrica thermoicos: Munro 1955, *Marine and freshwater fishes of Ceylon*: 42, pl. 7.

Distinguishing features

D i 7; A iii 5; P i 13-14; V i 7.

Esomus thermoicos is a heavy bodied species and the length of its head is nearly equal to the depth of the body, which is about 4.4 times in standard length and the maxillary barbels extend nearly to the tip of the pectoral fin. Lateral

line with 32-34 scales.

Distribution: Sri Lanka; INDIA: Kalakad Wildlife Sanctuary, Tamil Nadu and wetlands of Kerala.

Remarks: Dr. P.E.P. Deraniyagala of the Colombo Museum informed Dr. S.L. Hora of Zoological Survey of India, Calcutta that no *Esomus danrica* was to be found within a radius of 300 yards of the hot springs at Kanniya, Sri Lanka, judging from two collections of fishes from these springs. Other fishes including the peculiar *Puntius (Barbus) thermalis* were also absent in Kanniyar springs (Talwar and Jhingran 1991).

From India, this species has so far been reported only from Kalakad WLS, Tamil Nadu (Rema Devi 1992). The present report extends its distribution to Kerala.

We are grateful to Dr. K. Rema Devi, Scientist, ZSI, Southern Regional Station, Chennai, for confirming our identification of the species.

February 14, 1998

RAJU THOMAS, K.

BIJU C.R.

AJITHKUMAR C.R.

*Bombay Natural History Society,
Hornbill House, Dr. Salim Ali Chowk,
Shaheed Bhagat Singh Road,
Mumbai 400 023.*

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